

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device configured to:

receive first information that has been formed according to application software instructions;

independent of the application software instructions, form second information for causing a second computing device to perform an operation;

in response to receiving the first information, execute protocol stack instructions to form a data portion of a packet that includes at least the first and second information; and

output the packet to the second computing device.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first computing device is configured to:

in response to receiving the first information, execute the protocol stack instructions for forming the packet in accordance with a network protocol.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the network protocol is TCP/IP.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the network protocol is UDP/IP.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the first computing device is configured to:

output the packet to the second computing device through a network in accordance with the network protocol.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5 wherein the network is a global computer network.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5 wherein the network is an IP network.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first computing device is configured to:

in response to receiving the first information, execute the protocol stack instructions for forming the packet including a header portion and the data portion, the header portion including at least one header, and the data portion including at least the first and second information.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the second computing device is a client computing device.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the operation includes maintaining a session.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the operation includes maintaining a session by addressing a subsequent packet to the first computing device.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the operation includes modifying state information.

13. (Previously Presented) A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, the method comprising:

receiving first information that has been formed according to application software instructions;

independent of the application software instructions, forming second information for causing a second computing device to perform an operation;

in response to receiving the first information, executing protocol stack instructions to form a data portion of a packet that includes at least the first and second information; and

outputting the packet to the second computing device.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the method comprises:

in response to receiving the first information, executing the protocol stack instructions for forming the packet in accordance with a network protocol.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the network protocol is TCP/IP.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the network protocol is UDP/IP.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the method comprises:

outputting the packet to the second computing device through a network in accordance with the network protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the network is a global computer network.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the network is an IP network.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the method comprises:

in response to receiving the first information, executing the protocol stack instructions for forming the packet including a header portion and the data portion, the header portion including at least one header, and the data portion including at least the first and second information.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the second computing device is a client computing device.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the operation includes maintaining a session.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the operation includes maintaining a session by addressing a subsequent packet to the first computing device.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the operation includes modifying state information.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~whose contents cause a first computing device to process information, by performing~~ containing

instructions that, when executed by a first computing device, cause the first computing device to process information by performing a method comprising:

receiving first information that has been formed according to application software instructions;

independent of the application software instructions, forming second information for causing a second computing device to perform an operation;

in response to receiving the first information, executing protocol stack instructions to form a data portion of a packet that includes at least the first and second information; and

outputting the packet to the second computing device.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein the packet is formed in accordance with a network protocol.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein the second computing device is a client computing device.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein the computer-readable medium is a memory of a computer device.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein the contents are instructions that when executed cause the first computing device to perform the method.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein the first computing device comprises an intelligent network interface card.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein the second information comprises session maintenance information.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 32 wherein the second information causes the second computing device to migrate an existing session.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein the second information comprises a cookie.

35. (Previously Presented) An information processing system, comprising:

means for receiving first information that has been formed according to application software instructions;

means for forming second information for causing a second computing device to perform an operation, the second information being formed independent of the application software instructions;

means for executing protocol stack instructions in response to receiving the first information thereby forming a data portion of a packet that includes at least the first and second information; and

means for outputting the packet to the second computing device.

36. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 35 wherein the means for receiving first information comprises a direct memory access module.

37. (Currently Amended) The information processing system of claim 35 wherein the means for executing protocol stack instructions comprises a protocol stack ~~processor~~; processor of an intelligent network interface card.

38. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 35 wherein the second information comprises session maintenance information.

39. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 35 wherein the second information comprises state maintenance information.

40. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 35 wherein the second information comprises a cookie.

41. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 35 wherein the second information causes the first computing device to migrate an existing session.

42. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first computing device comprises an intelligent network interface card.

43. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the first computing device comprises an intelligent network interface card.

44. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein the first computing device comprises an intelligent network interface card.